

**SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE
SPECIAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 19, 2002**

(CONTINUATION OF SPECIAL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 18, 2002)

MEETING HELD AT THE WILLIAM H. ROGERS LEGISLATURE BUILDING
IN THE ROSE Y. CARACAPPA AUDITORIUM
VETERANS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY, SMITHTOWN, NEW YORK

MINTES TAKEN BY LUCIA BRAATEN, COURT STENOGRAPHER
MINUTES TRANSCRIBED BY DONNA CATALANO, COURT STENOGRAPHER

1

(THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:35 A.M. *)

D.P.O. POSTAL:

We are now in the recessed special meeting from yesterday.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

And before these women leave, I want to give them a hand, because they work so hard.

APPLAUSE

D.P.O. POSTAL:

Legislator Towle.

LEG. TOWLE:

Legislator Postal, is Ms. Arthur here this morning?

D.P.O. POSTAL:

Is Anne Arthur here this morning?

LEG. NOWICK:

She was.

D.P.O. POSTAL:

Is Anne Arthur in the building? She may not be in the auditorium, but she may be elsewhere the building.

LEG. TOWLE:

Okay. While she's coming to the microphone, I guess there was one resolution that we had up yesterday.

D.P.O. POSTAL:

Yes. Was there -- Henry, where were we with regard to that resolution and motions?

MR. BARTON:

There weren't any.

D.P.O. POSTAL:

Oh, there weren't any. Okay.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

It was recessed, that's all.

D.P.O. POSTAL:

Okay. I know -- is there a motion on --

MR. SABATINO:

2237.

LEG. NOWICK:

There she is.

D.P.O. POSTAL:

2237.

2

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Anne Arthur just walked in.

MS. ARTHUR:

Hi. Good morning.

D.P.O. POSTAL:

Good morning, Ms. Arthur. Thank you for coming this morning. There were questions that people had for you yesterday.

MS. ARTHUR:

Yes.

D.P.O. POSTAL:

And frankly, we were surprised. We thought that you would stay until

the end of the public portion. But I know that there are questions, and I know Legislator Towle had questions, so I'll recognize Legislator Towle.

MS. ARTHUR:

Well, before you ask your question, I just would like to say that unfortunately, I did had to get -- I did stay for a portion of the meeting, and I attempted to come up and speak when Ms. Pannulo was up here speaking, and Mr. Tonna said it was the appropriate time. But I did have to get back to the office and work with the remainder of the senior staff in the County Executive's Office on the budget veto. So I'm sorry I couldn't be here.

D.P.O. POSTAL:

But it was -- and that's what Todd told us. And it was -- this is obviously a very volatile issue.

MS. ARTHUR:

Sure.

D.P.O. POSTAL:

And the resolutions that were before us yesterday were momentous resolutions, and there was a need for information so that people could make an informed decision on those resolutions. So that we really regretted that you weren't able to be here, but we're happy that your here today. Legislator Towle.

LEG. TOWLE:

Thank you, Legislator Postal. Anne, I guess the one question I had is some of the speakers that appeared yesterday and testified before us as well as some of the people that called my district office informed my staff and informed us yesterday they had been called by you or your staff advising them to come to the special meeting to urge the Legislators to restore the sales tax on footwear and clothing, because that would translate in additional funding to their organizations. And that is just simply not true as we all know, and I'm curious why a senior member of the administration would suggest that to Health, Social Service or Youth Agencies?

MS. ARTHUR:

Well, first of all, you have the information incorrect, Mr. Towle.

Throughout the budget process, I have met with many contract agencies before our budget was prepared and sent over to the Legislature, and after it was sent over to the Legislature. And in the process of those meetings, many discussions were had as to the County Executive's position on the sales tax restoration on the exemption on clothing.

And they knew our position, and two particular agencies had asked that I keep them apprised of any new developments regarding the budget process. And those two agencies were the Family Service League and the Suffolk Community Council. And when we decided -- when the County Executive had decided to call the special meeting of the Legislature, which was held yesterday, I specifically called Judy Pannulo and left a voice mail message advising her of the special meeting, I did not speak to her personally. And I spoke to Karen Boorshtein of the Family Service League, and spoke to her personally advising her of the special meeting the purpose of the special meeting and the time and place for the special meeting, and that is all I had done.

And I am not the type of person who would coerce, as both claims have been made around this horseshoe, yesterday. It's not my style. I don't operate like that. And as a matter of fact, Ms. Pannulo is here today to state on the record, if you allow her to come up here and speak, that the voice mail message that I left was nothing like what was described here in this room yesterday.

LEG. TOWLE:

So to make sure the record's clear, you or no member of your staff after the County Executive decided to call the special meeting, because obviously unless you had telepathic ability to determine he was going to do that, would not have obviously called any of these agencies until after the County Executive called the special meeting. So no member of your staff or you contacted Health, Social Service or Youth agencies advising them that if the Legislature were to restore the sales tax on footwear and clothing that their agency's funding would be restored?

MS. ARTHUR:

No, that's not correct.

LEG. TOWLE:

Okay. Thank you.

MS. ARTHUR:

We had -- I had a phone call from a women from the HUGS Organization, because the County Legislature decided to zero out their funding. The County Executive had included a 10% cut to their funding. And the County Legislature zeroed it out, and she was looking for some additional dollars. Now, our conversation went along the lines of if we get enough revenue restored in our budget, I will see what we can do to get some dollars back to you. But there were no promises made. And she's here today. I'm sure she will attest to that fact as well. You know, this is no different than any of you sending people over to our office to lobby us for inclusion in our budget, which we often get from individual Legislators. So I don't -- I see this as a non issue.

P.O. TONNA:

Any other questions? Thank you very much.

4

MS. ARTHUR:

Thank you.

P.O. TONNA:

Okay. We have before us now we're going to consider -- does anybody want -- we want to finish -- I want to finish this agenda and get back to the other meeting. So do we have any motion or any -- any movement whatsoever on Resolution Number 2237, (repealing the sales and compensating use tax exemption for clothing and footwear sales and uses) the CN?

LEG. CRECCA:

I'll make a motion to table subject to call.

P.O. TONNA:

Lack of a motion -- no, it wasn't. No, it was not. It fails for lack of a motion. Okay? Meeting adjourned.

(THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 9:42 A.M.)

5